

FOREWORD

July 1, 1989, marks the 50th birthday of the Tulsa District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Such a golden milestone calls on us to pause a moment and look back thoughtfully, to learn where we have been and what we have done.

Did we leave the land and its people better off? Did we make a positive difference for the people of this region, this nation? Are their lives richer because of the past 50 years' work by the Tulsa District Engineers? Have their burdens been lightened, their futures brightened?

To help us look back and learn, we offer this book of stories and pictures about our first 50 years.

These are stories of people — people thousands-strong who have worked on behalf of the District over the past five decades.

These are stories of preparedness — of a District that has provided more than \$2 billion in military projects, supplies, and services, in peacetime and in war.

And these are stories of projects — public works that have prevented \$2 billion in flood damages, moved 50 million tons of navigation cargo, produced \$3.3 billion in hydropower, reserved 2 million acre-feet of water supply, and provided recreation for 1.2 billion lake visitors.

If the reader gains from these pages some sense of the scope of our mission and shares our renewed commitment to future excellence, our purpose in this publication will be well served.

COLONEL FRANK PATETE

Tulsa District Engineer

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Tulsa, Oklahoma

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**There is no history.
There is only biography.**

— Emerson

